

What is claimed is:

- Sub (a1)
1. A video recording apparatus comprising:
composite video image generating means for generating reduced video images by reducing each of a plurality of video images supplied and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images;
additional information generating means for generating additional information for each of the supplied video images ; and
recording means for recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium in such a manner of maintaining the correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information.
 2. The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the composite video image generating means performs a predetermined image compression to a video image obtained by combining the reduced video images and outputs the compressed video image as the composite video image.
 3. The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined recording medium is a tape-shaped recording medium capable of recording digital video information.

4. The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recording means records the composite video image and the additional information onto the same recording medium.

a1 5. The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from video supply sources in a time division manner.

6. The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information includes at least one of supply source information indicative of each of supply sources of the supplied video images, recording date and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of the arrangement and the maximum number of reduced video images in the composite video image, recording apparatus identification information for identifying the video recording apparatus used for recording, and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

7. The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the supplied video images are video images outputted from a plurality of video cameras.

8. The video recording apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from the video cameras in a time division manner.

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9. The video recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes at least one of camera identification information for identifying each of the video cameras, camera name information indicative of the name given to each of the video cameras, recording date and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of arrangement and the maximum number of the reduced video images in the composite video image, the recording apparatus identification information for identifying the video recording apparatus used for recording and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

10. A centralized monitoring recording system comprising:
a plurality of video cameras for capturing and outputting video images;

composite video image generating means for generating reduced video images by reducing each of a plurality of video images supplied from the video cameras and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images;

additional information generating means for generating additional information for each of the supplied video images; and

recording means for recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium in such a manner of maintaining the correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information.

11. A video recording method comprising:

a step of generating reduced video images by reducing each of a plurality of video images supplied and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images;

a step of obtaining additional information for each of the supplied video images; and

a step of recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium in such a manner of maintaining the correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information.

12. The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein the step of generating the composite video image includes a step of performing a predetermined image compression to a video image obtained by combining the reduced video images and outputting the compressed video image as the composite video image.

13. The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein a tape-shaped recording medium capable of recording digital video information is used as the predetermined recording medium.

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14. The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein the composite video image and the additional information are recorded onto the same recording medium in the recording step.

15. The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein the additional information includes at least one of supply source information indicative of each of supply sources of the supplied video images, recording date and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of the arrangement and the maximum number of reduced video images in the composite video image, recording apparatus identification information for identifying a video recording apparatus used for recording, and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

16. The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein the supplied video images are video images outputted from a plurality of video cameras.

17. The video recording method according to claim 16, wherein the additional information includes at least one of camera identification information for identifying each of the video cameras, camera name information indicative of the name given to each of the video cameras, recording date and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of arrangement and the maximum number of the reduced video images in the composite video image, the recording apparatus identification information for identifying a video recording apparatus itself used for recording and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.